

Schooner Ernestina Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday November, 14, 2014

Meeting location: New Bedford National Historic Park, 33 Williams Street, New Bedford, MA

Commissioners in Attendance: Laura Pires-Hester, Steve Walsh, Fred Sterner, Eugene Monteiro, Brian Rothschild, Licy Do Canto and Karl Pastore

DRC- Commissioner Jack Murray & Doug Leab

SEMA: Julius Britto, Mary Anne McQuillan & Buddy Andrade

Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM. Commissioner Karl Pastore displayed the new Ernestina-Morrissey sign constructed by DCR staff; all applauded. SEC Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes approved on motion by Gene Monteiro and seconded by Fred Sterner.

I UPDATE REPORT FROM DCR COMMISSIONER JACK MURRAY

- Two bidders applied for the work, Gloucester and Booth Bay Harbor Shipyards.
- He thanked Fred Sterner for his help on assessment of the Proposals.
- Doug Leab is here from the DCR Procurement Team to answer questions.
- The Contract was posted on the State website.
- After extensive review and requests for more information from the Bidders, the bid has been awarded to Booth Bay Shipyard, Maine.
- There has not yet been a formal response from Booth Bay, but that is expected.
- A "Send-off" event would probably be sometime in the first or second week in December, depending upon weather conditions.

II QUESTIONS TO DCR COMMISSIONER:

How much were the bids?

Gloucester \$7 million; Booth Bay \$5 million

Any reason Booth Bay would not sign contract? Commissioner: no.

Did Mystic bid? Commissioner: no

Fred Sterner added that he is satisfied with results of the bid.

Do we have safeguards in place to ensure quality and timeliness of the restoration?

Commissioner: yes, we have a shipwright to oversee the project. Doug Leab: there is an open bid for the shipwright.

How many actually attended the Bidders Conference?

Commissioner: three, and two bid.

Why Booth Bay over Gloucester? Doug Leab: overall score was for Booth Bay.

Does Commission need to vote on the contract?

Commissioner: no, as of right now we have no signed contract. Laura Pires-Hester: this is a state contract, thus our vote not required; however, we could act to concur with this selection to show our support for it.

Do we need to use US materials? Doug Leab: no.

What was the impact of the discount to the score? Doug Leab: 5 points out of 100.

Does the ship still go to Mass Maritime? That is still part of the arrangement; the Commission has three years to figure out how that will work.

What part did Massachusetts Historic Commission play? Commissioner: we filed a P&F with MHC and have received a letter of guidance (copies were distributed.)

What is the Booth Bay timeline? Doug Leab: 2 1/2 years, maybe longer.

III COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Pires-Hester opened the floor for further discussion. Regarding the future relationship with MA Maritime Academy, she stated that working out details of such relationship would be a future agenda item, and also that perhaps a Commissioner from the Academy could be considered.

Mr. Do Canto expressed concern about the possible "pushback" to the decision to award the contract to an out-of-state vendor: there has been already a campaign from the Gloucester community and there might be local concerns. He suggested a Commission press release concurring with the award, adding that Commission members should be prepared to answer questions about this decision. Mr. Monteiro agreed. Mr. Smiler asked if we should have a "script."

DCR Commissioner Murray said that the information is out in the public; DCR does not plan a press statement and will work with SEC and SEMA on the event.

Mr. Walsh said that we should all be looking to the future for Ernestina-Morrissey, and for the opportunity to write a "whole new history" for this historic vessel. Mr. Andrade agreed and suggested a "grassroots event" and looking forward to sailing up and down the coast.

It was agreed that Dr. Pires-Hester would draft a statement from SEC; Mr. Do Canto offered his assistance.

Dr. Pires-Hester thanked DCR Commissioner Murray, Mr. Leab and his team, and Commissioner Mr. Sterner for all their careful work. She also thanked also Mr. Pastore and the DRC Park staff for making the Ernestina-Morrissey sign.

Motion to close meeting: Gene Monteiro

Second by Fred Sterner.

All Commissioners voting in favor.

Meeting closed at 3:15PM.